

## A few words on creationism

What are you being asked to believe when a creationist is trying to convince you that “Creationism” is science or perhaps even fact?

Let us for a moment imagine that we are looking down upon someone’s kitchen. Our vantage point is fixed and we can’t move about to a different vantage point. The creationist is there looking down with us. We can see all the usual kitchen stuff including a neatly arranged kitchen table and chairs. The table is ebony with silky white placemats and a vase full of deep red roses. The table and chairs are all arranged on a neatly tiled floor composed of black tiles alternating with white tiles. While we are all observing the kitchen, a cat stealthily enters from a doorway on one side of the room. The cat pauses and looks around before sauntering across the floor and disappearing under the table. A few seconds later the cat reappears on the opposite side of the table. The cat cannot see us in our secret vantage point, but the cat’s highly tuned senses know we are there. The cat does not deign to acknowledge us.

Suddenly the creationist starts yakking. He is telling us that there is something other than nice orderly tiles under the table. So we ask the creationist what evidence there is that the pattern does not continue beneath the table. The creationist doesn’t really answer but babbles a bit about beliefs and his interpretation of some favored religious texts before informing us that not only are the tiles different under the table but that some of the tiles under the table had unexplained powers to act upon other parts of the room.

Just as we could not peer under the table, we can not peer into the distant past. With the tiles there was no reason to believe that the observed pattern did not continue beyond the portions we could observe. It is the same with details of the past beyond those which can be discerned in credible historical records, artifacts, and the continuum of the geological record. It is logical to assume that the patterns of evolution continue across the gaps in the fossil record. It is also logical to assume that the laws of physics have remained unchanged over time. There is no evidence of any discontinuity in the patterns of the fossil record or the geological record. However the creationist asks us to assume that the patterns and laws do not extend backwards in a logical and orderly continuum.

Our acquaintance with the creationist has not yet ended. This time our creationist has joined us as we shop for a new motor car. The sales lot is huge. There are models with four doors and models with two doors. Some have hatchbacks. Some are black. Others are white. There is, in fact, a bewildering array of colors from which to choose. We have paused to look at a practical four-door model with a rather attractive cranberry paintjob. Not too dull and

not too flashy. Suddenly our creationist starts yakking. Our creationist is explaining about how God has created this car - just moments ago. Our creationist friend insists his deity has designed it specifically for us. Our creationist also insists we should buy it right away - so as not to offend our "heavenly father". You happen to notice a sticker in the window. You read the sticker to yourself, "Proudly assembled by Union Labor in Lexington, Kentucky." So you then ask, "If God made it then why does this sticker say people made it?" "Oh that is just there to confound wise men" he replies.

Creationists and proponents of things like "Sudden Appearance Theory" ask us to believe that some deity created the Earth a mere six thousand years ago. When confronted with markings (evidence) which contradict their beliefs, they rally behind diversions like "The Lord works in mysterious ways" and "to confound the wise". Yet all the markings on the planet say it was produced by natural forces millions of years in the past. One can match up the growth rings of trees with the rings of dead trees to extend the record back much further than six thousand years. We are asked to believe this is fake evidence - placed to confound the "intellectual elite". Dinosaur bones? Those have been variously explained away as the bones of demons, the work of Satan, or shifted forward in time such that dinosaurs would have coexisted with man after he was expelled from the Garden of Eden.

There are many other labels which have been laid out across the planet. Some of these labels are vast.

If one flies across the Atlantic Ocean with a magnetometer, then one will find bands where the magnetic field of iron in the rocks of the seafloor is aligned with the Earth's magnetic field. Other strips of rock have the magnetic field of iron aligned in the opposite direction. We know the Atlantic Ocean grows wider each year. New rock is formed along the Mid Atlantic Ridge at a rate of about 16 miles per million years. This process is even visible as eruptions along the rift where it is above sea level in Iceland. As the new rock cools the iron aligns with the Earth's magnetic field and is locked in place. This forms a record of regular reversals of the Earth's magnetic field. It is simply irrational to believe that a deity would go to the trouble of falsifying all that evidence of things which we are told did not happen. Creationists say the Earth is no more than about six thousand years old. The rocks in the seafloor say the last reversal of the Earth's magnetic field was about 730,000 years ago. The reversal before that was about 2,480,000 years ago. There are similar bands in the Pacific which corroborate the record in the Atlantic. In fact, the sea floors of the world's oceans all contain the same evidence that the magnetic poles are not stable and have switched periodically for 145,000,000 years. Our creationist friend might get excited at the prospect - he could claim the tale told in the Book of Genesis was simply off by a factor of 24,166. That would be wrong because the record ends at 145,000,000 years only because the sea floors of

the Earth are constantly recycled. The records of older reversals are erased as the constantly moving rock is melted as it returns to the asthenosphere near places like the Marianas Trench. Continental rocks are much older. The evidence indicates some continental rock is as much as 3.8 billion years old!

When the labels are as big as the entire seafloor, then one should believe them.

If one knows how a thing originated then one also knows how a thing did not originate. Using the example of the car: it had a label which indicated it was assembled by people in Lexington Kentucky. There is corroborating evidence. One can read news articles in the business section about the factories where the people work. If we know people made it then we also know that it did not have supernatural origins.

Religion also has its labels. The labels all say created by man.

[A few examples of tinkering with religion to create new religions will go here. Emphasis will be on the patterns of religious invention as intelligent designers went about creating “improved” religions for consolidation of power or financial gain. One such pattern is receiving instructions from a deity conveniently away from any potential witnesses - Moses and the burning bush, Moses receives the Decalogue, Mohammad in the cave, Joseph Smith Jr. and “The First Vision”. ]

The human body has labels on it as well. They all say evolution and not intelligence.

A good example is the placement of the female genital opening relative to the pubic symphysis. Intelligent design could have avoided many problems by simply moving the female genital opening above the pubic symphysis. That did not happen because there was no “vision” and no intelligence in the evolution of the human body. The human female has the same bones and arrangement of reproductive organs as all her mammalian relatives. Only the proportions are changed. The Book of Genesis says women are cursed with pain in childbirth because of the sin of Eve. Ironically women are cursed with pain in childbirth because there was no creator and no intelligent design.

There is sexual dimorphism between human males and human females. Dimorphism refers to two variations of a basic body plan. One of the manifestations of this dimorphism is the proportions of the pelvic girdle. The shape of the pelvic girdle in males is not restricted by the necessity of allowing the skull of an infant to pass through the pelvic girdle. His hips are therefore adapted nearer the ideal for bipedal locomotion. One of the key differences is the distance between the left and right acetabulum or hip socket. These can

be closer together because no space is required for the birth canal. Women are caught in a design problem involving three factors. One is the necessity of giving birth to a child who has developed enough to have a chance of survival outside the womb. If the child is born too small then the probability of survival is less. If the child grows too large then natural childbirth becomes impossible. Before the “Caesarean Section” this would have been fatal for the infant and the mother. This is one of the factors balanced by “natural selection”. A closely related factor is the size of the child’s brain and the size of the skull which contains it. As the dual purpose stimulus sorter, that big brain is key to winning in the evolutionary sweepstakes. If there were no other factors then human babies would probably be born with much larger heads. However that would increase the distance required between the left and right acetabulum in adult females. The efficiency of bipedal locomotion is inversely proportional to that separation. Wider hips would make it more difficult to evade predators - something women don’t have to put up with today, but something with which the genes of their ancestors did have to deal.

So modern women are stuck with forcing a great big skull through an opening which by evolutionary design is just barely big enough. There is obviously no intelligence in that design because the fix is so simple.

When reviewing “Creationism” using the scientific method, one can only conclude that it does not have any supporting evidence while a preponderance of evidence conflicts with and obviates “creationism”. Thus “creationism” does not even rise to the level of a bad hypothesis - because a good hypothesis is meant to explain some observed evidence. In contrast “creationism” is a baseless idea in desperate search of supporting evidence.

As you have read this book you may have noticed an emphasis on understanding various patterns and how those patterns can be used to understand the world around us. These recurring patterns can be used to understand virtually any observed data or phenomena in the natural world. Several patterns are useful in understanding the phenomena of “Creation Science”.

There is a pattern observed in which the creators of malicious computer software constantly incorporate modifications into the code of their software exploits. They are able observe and copy the “good tricks” of successful exploits into their own exploits. When faced with new threats the creators of malicious software will develop new defenses and incorporate those into their exploits. This drives something analogous to the evolution of religion. Creators of new religious code have a goal of infecting and retaining control of as many minds as possible. This goal is not unlike the goal of infecting as many computers as possible with a particular strain of malicious software.

When purveyors of religion are faced with a threat - which is anything tending to weaken their grip on minds infected with their religion or limit infections of additional minds with their brand of religion - then the purveyors react. The concept of “blasphemy” can only be rationally interpreted in this way. It was invented by a purveyor of religion to protect their religious program from a threat. The concept of “proselyte” was obviously invented to protect a religious exploit from the “missionaries” and “evangelists” of competing religious exploits. Considering these examples one must conclude that “Creation Science” is simply another defensive method invented by purveyors of religion in order to protect their profitable enterprise. Adding these concepts to religion is analogous to the creators of malicious software adding code to make their exploits more able to evade defenses deployed by computer owners.

Early computer viruses were relatively easy to detect. Each virus program had a known pattern and the computer’s memory and storage devices could be searched sequentially for known virus exploits. Computer viruses evolved after the creators of malicious software invented methods to camouflage their exploits and incorporated those methods into their exploits. One such method was to divide the virus program into modules which were then managed such that they all worked regardless of the order they were stored in the computer. This meant different instances of the same computer virus would have differing patterns - complicating the algorithms for detecting the unwanted computer virus.

A similar pattern is observed in “Creation Science.” When real scientists and their supporters pushed back against “Creation Science” then the purveyors of religion reacted. The purveyors of religion created multiple versions of “Creation Science” with names like “Sudden Appearance Theory” and “Intelligent Design Theory.” These were essentially attempts to camouflage “Creation Science” from the defenses deployed by defenders of the “Ivory Tower.”

Another pattern which is useful in understanding the phenomena of “Creation Science” is the corruption of science where there is a conflicting motive such as profit or the accumulation of power.

[Discussion of “scientific claims” by corporations profiting from tobacco sales when confronted with evidence that smoking causes cancer and later that second-hand smoke causes health problems. Discussion of “scientific” claims by same corporations regarding addictive nature of their products.]

[Discussion of “scientific” claims underwritten by pollution profiteers when confronted with evidence that global warming is caused primarily by the activities of humankind and that global warming would be a problem.]

[Discussion comparing previous two examples to reaction of religious special interest groups when their profits are threatened by real science - such as creating confusion over the facts to counter the real science.]

When reduced to its essential elements, “Intelligent Design Theory” asks us to believe that some preexistent and intelligent creative force is responsible for conjuring all that is from nothing. However, when we observe the heavens there is no sign of anything other than what we can understand through the science of applied mathematics. There are the white hot examples of nuclear furnaces transforming hydrogen into heavier elements - glowing from the energy released. There are examples of gravity and the conservation of angular momentum. Some things exceed the capacity of the human imagination - vast distances and objects so dense that their gravity bends even light back inside. But among all that there is no signature - no “Slartibartfast” scrawled across the edge of a glacier - no sign of the hand of “God” at work.

There are examples of a preexistent creative force creating stuff out of nothing. But they are likely to disappoint the “Creation Scientist”. Malicious computer software was created from nothing by a creative force which pre-existed the malicious software as well as the machines which are subverted by the malicious software. In fact the only examples of a pre-existing creative force conjuring up anything anywhere in the known universe involve the human mind as the preexisting creative force.

This observation is significant because it means “Intelligent Design Theory” can be correctly applied only to things created by mankind. Intelligent Design Theory is appropriately applied only to malicious computer software, to religion and recursively to itself as a special case of religion.